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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/822,121	03/30/2001	Antonio J. Colmenarez	US010080	8881

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PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
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EXAMINER

CHAN, WING F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/822,121

Applicant(s)
Colmenarez et al

Examiner
Wing Fu Chan

Art Unit
2643



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 12, 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 14 6) ☐ Other:

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1. This office action is in response to the RCE filed 8/12/03. As directed by the preliminary amendment accompanying the RCE filed 8/12/03, claims 1, 5-12, 14-16 were amended, new claims 17-25 were added. Thus, claims 1-25 are presently pending in this application.

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 1, 10, 16-19, 22-25, all included the newly added limitation "the determination of direction dependent at least at times on the video signals" is new matter. The specification discloses using the microphone arrays to determine the direction of the audio source and once the direction is determined this information is used to perform electronic PTZ on the images picked up by the image pickup device to display the proper image associated with the source of the image, for example see **page 1 lines 5-8**, **page 4 lines 5-10**, 16 to page 5 line 2. Therefore, as disclosed the image signals do not and are not used to determine the direction of the audio source as erroneously

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alleged and the specification clearly fails to provide any adequate written description of the newly added limitation and as such the newly added limitation is new matter.

4. For the purpose of applying art, the newly added limitation will be treated as determining the direction of the audio source and then using this information to find the associated location/direction of the associated image for PTZ in the manner as disclosed in the specification.

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baker (US PAT. NO. 5,686,957).

Baker teaches a video conference system for locating the speaker comprising a stationary image pickup device (13), remaining motionless during operation, for generating image signals representative of an image, audio pickup device (21, 23, 25, 27, 29) for generating audio signals representative of sound from an audio source (direction of the audio source), a processing means (inter alia 15, 17, 19; multimodal integration architecture) for processing the image signals and audio signals to determine a direction of the audio source relative to a reference point--note that Baker teaches that once the direction of the audio source is determined the associated image location is determined using this audio source information (for example see col. 7 lines 12-19), and to

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manipulate the video images to effectively provide at least one of variable pan, tilt, and zoom functions (for example note Baker col. 6 lines 25-28, col. 9 lines 5-14) in the same manner as disclosed by applicants. In Baker, note Fig. 2 where the transform processor engine correlates to the computer vision person detection system, and in Fig. 1, the audio processor correlates to the speaker detection system, the microphone array correlates to the audio sound localization system. Note entire patent.

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker.

Regarding claim 4, Baker differs from the claimed invention in not disclosing the integrated housing is portable. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baker's system to be portable, since it has been held that making an old device portable or movable without producing any new and unexpected result involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Lindberg*, 93 USPQ 23 (CCPA 1952).

8. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker in view of Chu et al (US PAT. NO. 5,778,082 hereinafter Chu).

Baker differs from the claimed invention in not disclosing the use of an array of two microphones. However, it is notoriously old and well known in the art to use spatially separated microphones to obtain the direction or location of speech or other acoustic signals from a common sound source identifying acoustic received signals representative of the sequence of signals, and

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determining the direction of the source based upon the acoustic received signals, for example see Chu. Chu also discloses it has applications to videoconferencing where it may be desirable to automatically adjust a video camera, such as by aiming the camera in the direction of a person who has begun to speak, for example see Chu's abstract, col. 1 lines 5-19, col. 2 lines 3-8. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Baker to use an array of two microphones to obtain the direction or location of speech or other acoustic signals from a common sound source identifying acoustic received signals representative of the sequence of signals, and determining the direction of the source based upon the acoustic received signals to automatically adjust a video camera, since it would produce the same results with relatively less components (microphones) and less cost.

9. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 for any facsimile communications (for Technology Center 2600 only).

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Examiner W. F. Chan** whose telephone number is (703) 305-4732.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz, can be reached at 703-305-4708.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



WING F. CHAN
SENIOR PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

WFC

September 4, 2003